

a cutting blade connected to said cutting assembly, said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing said receiving area; and

a driver connected and in engagement with said cutting assembly for imparting sliding motion to said cutting assembly to move said cutting blade along the movement axis toward and away from said receiving area, wherein said cutting edge of said cutting blade remains substantially parallel to the substantially flat cutting surface during movement along the movement axis.--

--39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the movement axis of said cutting blade has a first component of movement extending in a direction substantially parallel to said cutting surface and a second component of movement extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to said cutting surface.--

Amend claims 3, 5, 9, 20, 21, 27, 31 and 34 as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim 38--.

Claim 5, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim 38--.

N.E. Claim 9, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim --38--.

Claim 20, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim --38--.

Claim 21, line 1, change "claim 15" to --claim --20--.

o.k. 2/19/00 N.E. Claim 27, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim --38--.

Claim 31, line 1, change "claim 32" to --claim --30--.

Claim 34, line 1, change "claim 1" to --claim --38--.

In the Specification

Page 4, line 38, after "specified length.", insert --As the cutting blade moves toward and away from the cutting surface, the cutting edge remains at all times substantially parallel to the top of the cutting surface.--

Page 20, line 7, after "shade 36.", insert --Moreover, the cutting edge 90 of cutting blade 30 to remain substantially parallel to cutting surface 24 during the entire cutting operation.--

In the Abstract

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure presently on file and substitute therefor the following revised Abstract:

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